

THIRD-PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
3000 MINNEHAHA AVENUE, COMMUNITY ROOM (FIRST FLOOR)  
MARCH 28, 2011 MINUTES

**3<sup>RD</sup> PRECINCT MISSION STATEMENT**

Reduce crime, establish good relationships with the community and achieve high officer morale.

- Call to order at 6:30 P.M. by **Chairperson Gwen McMahon**
- Introductions of 39 people mentioning neighborhood and/or affiliation with the 3rd Precinct.

**Minutes from the November 22<sup>nd</sup>** meeting were approved as written with 3 name corrections; ~~Lieutenant Night~~ Lieutenant Knight, ~~Officers Garvin and Greeves~~ Officers Garman and Greaves.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** In the absence of **Treasurer, Janell Holmberg**, Gwen McMahon reported:

Any money raised by 3-PAC, be it food, pop or money goes towards various types of officer recognition, mainly the Officer of the Month plaques, trophies

- \$667.91 in the savings account, \$15.09 in the checking account and all bills are paid to date including officer of the month.

**Chairperson Gwen McMahon announcements:** Elections for new 3-Pac officers will be held at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Summer Picnic will be June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**INSPECTOR LUCY GEROLD, COMMANDER OF THE THIRD-PRECINCT:**

**STATE OF THE PRECINCT**

- I am going to focus the majority of my update on the property crimes challenge that we're having in the precinct.
- Our violent crime is down and violent crime is robbery, rape, homicide and aggravated assault. Down 20% from the same time last year and 15% from 2 years ago. So we have been doing a really good job on violent crimes.
- Our arrests are up. The proactive stops—that's the traffic stops, suspicious person and suspicious vehicle stops—are really up.
- Our curfew and truancy enforcement is also up. Our focus there is that too often truancy is a gateway for kids that eventually get into trouble. In terms of curfew, the idea is you are going to be victimized or do something you shouldn't be doing if you're out after curfew. **There are strong correlations in the data between curfew arrests being up and robbery being down.**
- We're very concerned about our property crimes and those are primarily burglary and theft from auto. Our Burglaries are up 20%YTD compared to the same time last year and up 83% compared to 2 years ago. So to give you just some raw numbers in burglaries; at this time in 2009 we had 153, this year we've already had 280. So for the last 15 to 16 months we've really been focusing on the property crimes; the burglaries and the theft from autos. We've been getting good prevention messages and alerts out from the crime prevention specialists to the community. We're also getting some good suspicious activity calls which lead to our making arrests of crimes in progress on car break-ins and burglaries of homes and garages. We still need more of those calls.
- We're getting good information out to the community and we're getting a good response from the community and the officers are making some very good arrests and making good stops of suspicious people that are in the alley at 2 A.M. and can't give a good reason for being there. We're getting good investigation of those burglaries and when we do make arrests the county attorney is charging those cases.

**COURT WATCH**

- So in terms of the system working, those pieces are working really well. If we're all doing this and we're doing such a great job at it, what's falling apart? It's the consequences after the charging for the property crime. So we are in the process of launching, and we need and want and invite your help in this, a Property Crimes Court Watch. We have been doing court watches for chronic offenders in areas around Chicago &

Franklin, Chicago & Lake and Franklin Avenue and have had great community input. We post the pictures so you know who the top offenders are and we focus on their whereabouts so they get more focus from the courts when we get them arrested.

- We're taking that same concept to property crimes and it's going to be property crimes precinct wide, although the majority of robberies and theft from auto is south of 38<sup>th</sup> Street and east of Cedar Avenue. It's more of a south and east quadrant of the precinct. Other neighborhoods have also had burglaries but the majority or concentration has been south and east.
- The court watch would involve:
  - We identify our top property crime offenders, then meet and review with you on a monthly basis:
    - ? What has happened with our cases
    - ? What the status of those offenders is
    - ? What consequences, if any, there are
    - ? And if there are any court dates.
  - The other part of this is community impact statements.
    - We recently put out a call, electronically through your crime prevention specialists, for impact statements on what it's like to be the victim of or be in a neighborhood that's being victimized by these burglars.
    - Those statements can make a great impact in court in terms of getting consequences for those burglars.
- Jodi Furness, Community Attorney:
  - We've been talking about this for a while. After we had a meeting we decided we don't need the court watch to be formalized to go ahead and start working on these cases and better consequences.
  - My paralegal put together an impact statement, our first one being on a burglary and CPS, Shun did one on a theft of motor vehicle. The response was phenomenal. We had people emailing and we got some really heartfelt statements. I think they will really make a difference when the County Attorney brings that forward for a sentencing.
  - We also got things in motion to start working with the property crimes team here, our investigators, so that from the start they are coming to Beth and I saying: "this is where this person frequents" and "this is where the crime happened" "we hope this person is charged with..." We started to put together a map for a geographic restriction prototype to keep them out of these neighborhoods.
- **INSPECTOR LUCY GEROLD:** we've identified the top 28 offenders and their pictures and names will be posted on the website. The reason for this geographic restriction is criminals tend to offend close to where they are very familiar and continue to offend in the same areas. Because they know someone there or they've lived there they can get easy in and out or they've got a place there where they can ditch or go into so it's just not unusual. When we see a certain kind of crime there we know who's committing those because the MO is very similar. They are familiar patterns to us. So the restrictions are an important part to this.
- Tom Arneson, Juvenile Court:
  - I know some of you might be familiar with the other court watches in the 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct, downtown and in the 4<sup>th</sup> precinct, those have focused on chronic offenders. A lot of times offenders who were known to people who were living in the neighborhood, so they recognize the same people coming there and dealing drugs, using drugs or trespassing.
  - This is a little different type of a concept that we are talking about. A lot of times you recognize or you know who's committing the crimes in your neighborhoods but a lot of other times it's the burglaries or theft from autos where you don't know who it is who's committing those crimes.
  - The police have developed leads based on MOs, we have track records and they may be committing crimes in a number of different areas in the 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct but they're also operating out of the 5<sup>th</sup> precinct. One of the common denominators that I see with this verses the other court watches is that it gets at the problem in the court system where the courts are viewing these crimes.
  - Some of it's built into what the laws are. The crimes are seen, by the court system and by the law, as being a lot less serious than other crimes that are coming through. So the sex offenders, homicides, the aggravated assaults—just because of the penalties they carry are going to be treated more seriously by the courts. The burglaries and property crimes have a tendency to be

treated less seriously because the penalties are not as serious under the law, and they should be compared to a homicide.

- They do have a very negative impact on the community. I know from living in South Minneapolis, your neighborhood gets hit by burglaries, you get the emails from all of your neighbors that their garage has been burglarized, and their cars been broken into and that sort of thing. What we are shooting for is to get the community involved, get the impact. It's a collaborative.
  - The court watches have been a collaborative between the community, as well as the partners within the system (probation, the police, the city attorney's office the county attorney's office) we've been able to be very effective at focusing our resources together to go after the people who really are the problems. To be able to differentiate the run of the mill cases from the cases in which the people have been a problem where there's been a series of offences. So, that's what we're going after and we would appreciate your help.
- **INSPECTOR LUCY GEROLD:** One of the things I really want to reinforce in terms of what help we can really use from the community and a message you can take back to people is serial numbers.
- If people keep track of their serial numbers and something is taken, it helps us with our cases. If that merchandise, TVs or laptops are found in someone's possession and we've got that serial number we can prove that it's stolen. It's very easy. It's also a good way to track them if they try to pawn or fence them. So, we really need serial numbers and pictures of things that don't have serial numbers like jewelry and that kind of thing.
  - The other thing is prevention, locking doors and windows, and good security. The Crime Prevention Specialists have some good information on this and we also have some spring workshops coming up on home security. So those prevention strategies and improving security are really critical.
  - The third thing is calling on the suspicious activity and by that I mean anything that's out of the normal. You know who belongs in your neighborhood, what patterns are normal and what comings and goings are normal from your neighbor's houses. We don't want to hear a week from now that you saw two guys standing outside your neighbors window and now you've heard about the burglary and you think that it's important. We really want to know when you see it. The chance of a police officer catching a burglary in progress is 1 every 13 years. They see us coming. They're not going to commit a burglary when we might see them. We might get lucky and catch someone coming out of a window on the second floor, but you're going to know who belongs in that house much more than we are. It's your call that leads us to apprehension of the burglars and thieves. Anything that you would later say, "I thought that was weird" is the kind of thing you should call on immediately. If someone is knocking on a door asking for Joe, and Joe doesn't live there, and then they go to the next door or you see them standing on a street checking another house, that's just a ruse to find out who's home. So anything that looks suspicious that doesn't make sense, call 911 and let us decide whether that is a potential burglar or thief or if it's a neighbor trying to get in their car that they've locked themselves out of. Let us make that determination. We'd much rather have the information of something suspicious and have a chance to check it out than have you not call.

#### QUESTIONS ASKED:

What makes somebody a top offender and what website will they be posted on? and Will the public have access to the website?

- Inspector Lucy Gerold: We're going to be posting them on the MPD 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct website (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/3rd-precinct.asp>) and the list that we looking at are those that have been the most active in the last couple of years in the 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct. They've been very active, arrested before, and usually not first time offenders. Jody: there's a huge percentage of them that have open cases right now and that's why we started doing this right away. They're not just generally active there are currently active cases in progress.

What determines the sentence for a burglary? Does property value factor into sentencing?

- Tom Arneson, Juvenile Court: (for adults) there are different degrees of burglary that impacts what the sentence is. 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burglary is to break into somebody's building like a garage and stealing something (low level crime). 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burglary is to break into somebody's house and steal something, that's also a higher level crime. If you go into a house and steal something when there is someone in the house, that's 1<sup>st</sup> degree burglary. So the law looks at the level of the crime and looks at the person's criminal history. You get points every time you're convicted. There is actually a grid you

can look at to see the person's prior convictions and how serious is the crime. A 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burglary for instance is a case that somebody wouldn't go to prison for if they were convicted. They'd be on probation; the court could sentence you to sometime in jail, up to a year. A repeated 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> degree burglary offence could add up to prison.

- The sentence isn't going to be a lot higher based on value of item stolen. The highest threshold is \$2500 so if the value of property stolen is \$30,000 the sentence may be a little higher but not a significant amount.
- For juveniles to be treated as an adult for a property crime is pretty rare. The court will adjudicate the child and determine what will work best to rehabilitate the child.

How much training do officers have after they become officers? There are State licensing requirements that need to be met on an ongoing basis. Sometimes so much training that it came become a scheduling issue.

## **OFFICER OF THE MONTH**

**Officer of the Month, January 2011:** Officer Dan Horn is our nominee for Officer of the Month. Dan has been a leader on the shift for years. He has been assigned to the traffic squad, 350, working able, day in and day out. He arrives early for every shift. The first person Officers look for each day is the traffic car. He is always available to answer questions related to traffic and accidents. He takes pride in his job and considers it his responsibility to handle as many accidents as he possibly can each day. He will gather the information for one accident and cancel a dispatched squad to handle the next, stacking reports until he can catch up later. If there is any down time he can be found running plates in a busy area.

January was an extra busy month. After several snow falls left the streets covered in ice or hard packed snow, the streets were so tight cars could not pass if there were cars legally parked. This caused a large amount of Accidents or Hit and Runs. Dan handled forty-two accidents that required a State Accident Report; many of these also required a follow-up CAPRS Report. This does not take into account the accidents he responded to that had minor damage that he could packet and advise on. Dan will spend down time in the reported hot spots of recent burglaries. He has made it his personal challenge to catch these thieves.

Dan recently obtained a PBT from the Traffic court. He has been available to assist other Officers when they have come across a potential drunk driver. He was a part of two DWI's in January that once the results come back from the BCA can result in vehicle seizures.

For these highlights and his great attitude he brings each and every day, Dan Horn is our nominee.

**Officer of the Month, February 2011:** Officer Dean Milner; Squads in Sector 3 have been responding to a South Minneapolis address in response to calls from an elderly resident.

The gentleman suffers from dementia-related issues and calls 9-1-1 to report thefts in his home, missing property, or burglaries. Most of these incidents are unfounded and Officers that normally work the Sector began to take more time at the calls and get to the root of the problem. Officers involved Adult Protection in mid 2010 and the elderly gentleman's adult children were made aware of the 9-1-1 calls.

Officer Dean Milner decided to take further action with the elderly gentleman after responding to several calls to the address since the first part of 2011. Officer Milner looked up prior contacts and calls for service and spoke regularly with the elderly gentleman's adult children. They coordinated a date and time to remove several firearms from the home which were a concern to the children since the elderly gentleman has been talking about his days as an expert marksman and trap shooter. The family's concern was that the elderly gentleman has a bad temper and might use the firearms recklessly. After the firearms were removed, Officer Milner suggested to the elderly gentleman that instead of calling 9-1-1 for thefts, burglaries, and other weird things that he thinks are happening in his home, he should contact the 3rd Precinct Desk Officer before he calls 9-1-1 for service. Officer Milner updated the Desk Officers and all agreed to the plan. In the meantime, Adult Protection and the children of the elderly gentleman are more involved with his situation.

The elderly gentleman called the desk numerous times and messages were left for Officer Milner to return the call. Officer Milner now just allows the elderly gentleman to call his cell phone directly when

he needs assistance. Most often, the elderly gentleman just wants company and Officer Milner has been very kind to him, above and beyond – even Off-Duty.

If our motto is “To protect with Courage and to Serve with Compassion”, Officer Milner clearly has demonstrated this motto as it pertains to dealing with the citizens and return call problems in Sector 3. Officer Milner should be selected as Officer of the Month for February, 2011.

Officer Milner had not received his award yet because he has been away with his church on a mission trip to Haiti.

**REPORT FROM COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM (CRT) for Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr and YTD:**

|          | CCN's      | SW's       | CB / Rips | Guns   | Crack (g) | MJ (g)  | Powder (g) | Meth (g) | Khat-Graba(lbs)      |
|----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|----------------------|
| Jan      | 50         | 2          | 39        | 2      | 18.6      | 472     |            | 455      | 77                   |
| Feb      | 45         | 5          | 35        | 1      | 8.5       | 445.1   | 0.8        | 59       | 19981                |
| Mar      | 68         | 13         | 43        | 3      | 206.4     | 31.5    | 77         |          |                      |
| April    | 75         | 11         | 48        | 1      | 96.8      | 4596.7  | 50.6       | 30.5     |                      |
| YTD 2011 | 238        | 31         | 165       | 7      | 330.3     | 5,545.3 | 128.4      | 544.5    | 20,058               |
|          | Drug Court | Herion (g) | Pills     | Cash   | Veh       | Fel     | GM         | Misd     | Prostitution Arrests |
| Jan      | 10         | 4          | 71        | 4,415  | 2         | 12      | 17         | 11       | 22                   |
| Feb      |            | 1.2        | 30        | 1,764  |           | 13      | 16         | 17       | 17                   |
| Mar      | 15         |            | 177       | 24,590 | 3         | 20      | 15         | 20       | 16                   |
| April    | 17         | 1          | 49        | 1,585  | 1         | 12      | 16         | 23       | 18                   |
| YTD 2011 | 42         | 6.2        | 327       | 32,354 | 6         | 57      | 64         | 71       | 73                   |

**REPORT FROM CCP/SAFE (community crime prevention/safety for all)**

- **CPS Don Greely, Sector 1, EPIC, Midtown Phillips, Phillips West, Ventura Village,** not able to make it
- **CPS Karen Notsch, Sector 2, Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Corcoran, Powderhorn Park, Standish (north of 42nd St. E.)** reminds us to call 911 and don't announce it when you're doing it. Also invite people to the block club meetings. Also take the flyers at the back table.
- **CPS Sue Roethele, Sector 3, Diamond Lake, Ericsson, Field, Hale, Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park, Northrop, Page, Regina, Standish (south of 42nd St. E.) and Wenonah**
- **CPS Shun Tillman, Sector 4, Cooper, Hiawatha, Howe, Longfellow, Seward** not able to make it

**Next meeting will be May 23rd  
8:00 P.M. Adjourn**